

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /137 W

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P R 140835Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4725

INFO USMISSION NATO

SECDEF

COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1101

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT IC

SUBJECT: LEFTIST GOVERNMENT-FORMATION TALKS COLLAPSE

1. PROGRESSIVE PARTY CHAIRMAN OLAFUR JOHANNESSON TODAY CONCEDED FAILURE OF HIS THREE WEEK EFFORT TO FORM A PP-LED LEFTIST GOVERNMENT. IMMEDIATELY AFTER INFORMING PRESIDENT OF THIS FACT, JOHANNESSON ANNOUNCED HE WOULD CONTINUE ATTEMPT TO FORM GOVERNMENT BY SEEKING ACCOMMODATION WITH INDEPENDENCE PARTY. (LAST MONTH, JOHANNESSON REJECTED IP INVITATION TO DISCUSS GOVERNMENT FORMATION, SAYING HE HAD EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE LEFTIST GOVT WAS POSSIBLE.)

2. IN RADIO INTERVIEW TODAY, JOHANNESSON SAID BOTH DEFENSE AND ECONOMIC MATTERS HAD BEEN OBSTACLES TO SUCCESS OF FOUR-PARTY TALKS. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THREE FORMER GOVERNMENT

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PARTIES -- PROGRESSIVES, PEOPLES ALLIANCE, AND LIBERALS

AND LEFTISTS--COULD HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT, BUT THAT
SOCIAL DEMOCRATS DEMANDS HAD PROVED INSURMOUNTABLE.
HOWEVER, HE REFESED TO BLAME ANY ONE PARTY FOR FAILURE,
SAYING HE BELIEVED EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE.

3. JOHANNESSON STRESSED URGENCY OF FORMING PARLIAMENTARY
GOVERNMENT QUICKLY TO COPE WITH NATIONS PROBLEMS. HE SAID
IF PARTIES FAIL IN THIS EFFORT, PRESIDENT HAS NO ALTERNATIVE
BUT TO CREATE CABINET OF TECHNICIANS. HE ADDED THAT PP-IP
TALKS COULD BEGIN AS EARLY AS TOMORROW, DEPENDING ON IP
RESPONSE TO HIS OFFER, BUT HE AVOIDED PREDICTING TIMING
OR NATURE OF OUTCOME.
IRVING

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